

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 11 of 1896.

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS
FOR THE
Week ending the 14th March 1896.

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		Nil	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini"	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	5,000	8th March 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	7th ditto.	
3	"Banijya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	28th February and 6th March, 1896.	
4	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	10th March 1896.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	5th ditto.	
6	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....	
7	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	7th ditto.	
8	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	4th ditto.	
9	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	6th ditto.	
10	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	7th ditto.	
11	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	9th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chanchrika."	Ditto	1,000	6th and 8th to 11th March 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	6th, 10th, 11th March 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	5th to 7th and 9th to 12th March 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	5th March, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	9th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000	4th, 6th to 5th and 10th March, 1896.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussultanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	810	5th March, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	330		
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	3rd March, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	8th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	6th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>	PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Murshidabad Mitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	4th March 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200	6th ditto.	
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603		
	URIA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbunj ...	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	15th January 1896	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	30th ditto.	
3	"Urya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	29th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480	1st February 1896.	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	19th February 1896.	
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	2nd March 1896.	
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195		
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	27th February 1896.	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	500		
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	8th March 1896.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	7th ditto	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240	5th ditto	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	
ASSAM.					

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Hitavadi* of the 6th March writes as follows:—

Oppression by English soldiers at Madhupur. Babu Umesh Chandra Roy has communicated to us from Madhupur an account of a horrible occurrence. He says that on the 26th February last, a body of English soldiers encamped at that place. At about 2 P.M. one of them happening to see two young women sitting at a door behind the shop of a Marwari in the bazar, ran up a flight of steps making evil gestures to catch one of them. The two young women screamed and ran away. A strong Marwari youth now appeared and belaboured the soldier soundly with a cudgel. But after 10 or 12 minutes, 15 or 16 soldiers came, cudgels in hand, to attack the Marwari's shop. Seeing their furious attitude, all the Marwaris made haste to shut their doors—all but the youth, referred to above, who again fell among the soldiers, club in hand, and thrashed some of them soundly. But he was soon overpowered in this unequal conflict and fell down. The soldiers then thrashed him to their hearts' content. Information was sent to the police, and there was a great commotion at Madhupur. The soldiers went away, no one knows where, that very night. The editor requests the Commander-in-Chief, who has already entitled himself to the gratitude of the people by his efforts to save them from oppression at the hands of soldiers, to enquire into this matter.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 5th March says that the present

The head-quarters of the Jamui subdivision of the Monghyr district. situation of the head-quarters of the Jamui subdivision of the Monghyr district causes great inconvenience to the residents of the westernmost part

of the district. The head-quarters lie at present at a distance of about 45 miles from the western extremity of the district, while the Bihar subdivision of the Patna district is only 10 miles distant therefrom. Besides, there being no public thoroughfare between Jamui and the villages lying in the western part of the district of Monghyr, the journey to the Sadar is very tedious, especially during the rainy season, and generally takes more than three days. The distance of the court has made the local police absolute masters of the lives and property of the villagers. People, therefore, do not venture to complain of their oppression.

One of the following schemes will remove the inconvenience—

- (1) The transfer of the subdisional head-quarters to Shaikhpara, where there is now only an Honourary Bench, with direction to the Local Board to undertake at once the construction of roads and bridges necessary for giving easy access to it from adjoining villages;
- (2) The transfer of the portion of Monghyr referred to above partly to the Barh subdivision and partly to the Bihar subdivision of the Patna district.

3. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Jenkins as a Judge of the

The new appointment to the High Court Bench. Calcutta High Court in place of Justice Pigot, the *Hitavadi* of the 6th March asks Government to

consider whether it is right to appoint a young English barrister, unacquainted with the manners and customs of this country, as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. Why have the claims of the many able barristers and pleaders in that court been overlooked? In the writer's opinion, to appoint either Babu Rashbihari Ghosh, or Mr. Lalmohun Ghosh, as a Judge of that court, would be to show a proper appreciation of ability and experience.

4. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 7th March says that Mr. Faulder gave

Mr. Faulder, late District Magistrate of Dacca. satisfaction to all in his capacity of District Magistrate of Dacca. His services in connection with the

repair of the *math* attached to the Vikrampur palace and of the masjids at Maheswardi and Patharghata, have earned for him the gratitude of the people of Dacca. It is true the expenses of the repairs were not borne by him, but without his energetic efforts, neither the Government

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Mar. 5th, 1896.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

nor the rich people of Dacca could have been induced to contribute towards the necessary funds. The only act of Mr. Faulder's of which the writer cannot approve, was his dismissal of Dinabandhu Babu at the close of his term of office in Dacca. Mr. Faulder should have punished him in any other way except depriving him of his bread.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

5. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th March, has the following:—

Mr. Carey, Sub-divisional Officer of Sirajganj, should be transferred from that place. He has made it too hot for the people. There is a *hat* in Sirajganj which is held four times a week. One Nazaruddin Sarkar is the owner of this *hat* as well as of the adjoining tank, the water of which is used by the *hat* people. This tank having been overgrown with vegetation, Mr. Carey served Nazaruddin with a notice ordering him to clear the tank within a stated period. So far Mr. Carey's conduct is unobjectionable. But he did not stop here and the proceedings subsequently adopted by him are highly unlawful and objectionable. One Nadu Akanda submitted a petition to Mr. Carey, representing himself as a co-sharer of Nazaruddin. On the 8th July, 1895, the Sub-divisional Officer wrote an order on the petition to the following effect:—The police should allow Nadu Akanda to collect the rent of the *hat*, keep in its own custody the rent for three out of the four days in the week, send it to the Sub-divisional Officer at the end of every week, and report to him the rent collected every week. On the 15th July Mr. Carey issued another order instructing the police to keep the peace in the *hat* and levy the usual *tola* every *hat* day. The police Sub-Inspector was made responsible for the collection of the *tola*, as well as of the three days' rent. A notice was also issued calling for tenders for the *ijara* of the twelve-anna share of the *hat* rent, on the condition that the *ijaradar* should clear the *hat* tank, or in default pay Rs. 300. The *hat* people were ordered to pay rent to the Rajganj police and not to Nazaruddin. The police was ordered to clear the tank and send the rent collected every week to the treasury. The matter, however, came to the notice of the District Magistrate of Pabna, and on the 1st August he wrote to Mr. Carey, remarking that the police was going beyond its power in interfering in the matter, and on the 10th August he instructed the Sub-divisional Officer to send Nadu Akanda to the kanungo to have his claim settled. Mr. Carey wrote in reply that he would withdraw his order within fourteen days if within that time he could not settle the respective claims of the rival co-sharers. On the 14th August Mr. Carey withdrew his former order, but at the same time instructed the kanungo to find out an *ijaradar* for the twelve-anna share of the *hat* rent.

Now, the question is, what right has a Magistrate to settle civil rights and claims? What right had Mr. Carey to order the *hat* people not to pay rent to Nazaruddin, or to instruct the police to keep the rent in its own custody and send it to the public treasury? The District Judge of Pabna has held Mr. Carey's proceedings unlawful and referred the matter to the High Court. In the meantime, Mr. Carey has granted to two persons an *ijara* of the *hat* for one year.

(c)—*Jails.*

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

6. Referring to Dr. Gregg's article in the *Calcutta Review* on jail reform,

Dr. Gregg's scheme of jail reform.

the *Sanjivani* of the 7th March asks the Government to introduce into all jails the measures of reform which Dr. Gregg has tried with success in the Hooghly jail. The inmates of jails should be given substantial food and salt and oil in sufficient quantity. The Lieutenant-Governor will also do well to inquire into the condition of the prisoners, with a view to mitigate the unbearably hard labour and severe discipline which obtain in the jails of this country.

(d)—*Education.*

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

7. The *Sahachar* of the 4th March writes as follows:—

Present school inspection.

Complaints have been heard against the system

under which schools are now-a-days inspected. There is a rule requiring Inspectors to be engaged in inspection duty during

150 days in a year, Deputy Inspectors during 200 days, and Sub-Inspectors during a still larger number of days. The inspecting officer, who spends the largest number of days in a year on inspection duty, is therefore favourably mentioned in the Annual Report of the Director of Public Instruction, and is praised by Government as the most expert officer. Although there is in this way almost incessant inspection, the method of such inspection is not all that could be desired. The inspecting officer enters a school, looks over its account books, takes a survey of the school building, writes his remarks in the visitor's book, and is off. His inspection of a school is, therefore, finished in a quarter of an hour. But this was not the way in which learned Inspectors of Schools, like Woodrow, Clarke, Garrett, and Fallon inspected schools in past times. If any one of them went to a school for inspection, he did not leave it till he had carefully and minutely examined every class, from the highest to the lowest, given instructions to the teachers, if necessary, as to the mode of teaching, put and explained to the boys arithmetical questions of new types, and given them some moral instruction. To the inspection of one school they thus devoted from three to four hours' time. The teachers anxiously desired visits from Inspectors like Woodrow and Clarke, because they knew that such visits would afford them opportunities of having their own doubts and difficulties removed. The teachers looked upon such Inspectors as their fathers, and the name of that high-minded man, the late Mr. Woodrow, was known even to many zanana ladies of the time. The European Inspectors of the present time are cast in a different mould. They want to inspect not less than two or three schools of different classes in the course of one day, and regard any teacher, who requests them to explain any difficulty, as a worthless and incompetent man. The teachers formerly hailed with delight the visit of an Inspector, but now they and the Secretary of a school tremble at the very name of a visit of inspection. The Inspectors of former days were men of guileless character and kindly disposition, like the pandits of this country. Not so the Inspectors of the present day, who, following the example of the executive, want to carry matters with a high hand. It has, accordingly, become difficult now-a-days to distinguish an Inspector of Schools from a police officer. The European Inspectors have no sympathy with the cause of high education; nay, they do their best to bring about the abolition of the higher class English schools. It is needless to say that such men cannot earn the respect of the country. Sir Charles Elliott had no affection for this country. He wanted only to lord it over the people, and every officer who carried out his orders silently and without demur, found favour with him. In his anxiety to shew the world how efficient the Bengal administration became under him, he laid down hard and fast rules for tours of inspection, by all officers including the officers of the Education Department. Even the Director of Public Instruction had appointed for him the number of days in a year during which he must be on tour. Every officer under the late Lieutenant-Governor was, in fact, required to be constantly moving about like a top in motion and to work incessantly under high pressure. But this was not possible for human beings, and all work was therefore done perfunctorily. Inspectors who constantly moved about found with Sir Charles Elliott's Government favour, which was denied to officers who did much valuable work quietly and without running about at the prescribed speed. The latter often incurred the censure of Government as worthless officers. It is, therefore, necessary that Sir Charles Elliott's rules relating to tours of inspection by educational officers should be modified, so as to enable an inspecting officer to devote sufficient time to the inspection of every school he visits, and teachers and students to feel the wholesome effect of every such visit. Solid work quietly done by the Inspectors will do more to advance the cause of education than rapid tours which, though excellent things to put in a report, leave no wholesome effects after them.

8. The same paper writes as follows:—

The termination of the University affair.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie possesses in full measure all the qualities which go to the making of a really great ruler. It is only a short time he has taken charge of the administration of Bengal, but he has already secured for himself a high place in the estimation of his subjects by his noble acts, and every week brings to public notice some

SAHACHAR
Mar. 4th, 1896.

fresh proof of his nobleness. Providence seems to have sent Sir Alexander to Bengal with the object of making the Bengalis happy. May he be long spared on earth to fulfil that mission. The act of His Honour to which we wish particularly to refer to-day is His Honour's intervention in the affair which was agitating the Calcutta University for the last few weeks. The occurrence, though small as a mole-hill, had been worked up into a mountain by Sir Alfred Croft. The Lieutenant-Governor saw the mischief which the quarrel might lead to if it was allowed to go on. So he interfered and brought about a reconciliation. One of Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose's sons was insulted by the durwans of the Senate House, and repeatedly complained to Mr. Griffiths about the ill-treatment to which he was subjected. The matter would have ended there, and would never have come to the notice of the Syndicate, if Mr. Griffiths, on receiving the complaint, had reprimanded the durwans for what they had done, and said a kind word or two to the aggrieved boy. But Mr. Griffiths thought it wise, for the sake of discipline, not to listen to the boy's complaint. Discipline, it is true, ought to be enforced at any cost among school-boys; but did not Mr. Griffiths think the maintenance of discipline equally necessary among the menial servants of the University? Admitting for the sake of argument that Mr. Bose's son was in the wrong in not leaving the hall when asked by the durwans to do so, was it not the clear duty of the durwans, instead of using violence towards him, to inform Mr. Griffiths or any of his subordinates of his conduct? Does enforcement of discipline among schoolboys mean that they may be roughly handled by menial servants for any violation of it? Can Mr. Griffiths enforce discipline in this manner in his college? Let him allow the menial servants of the Presidency College to insult and ill-treat the students for a few days, and the college will have to be abolished. God forbid that such a thing should come to pass, but an occurrence like this may happen if any Principal ever attempt to enforce discipline by such means. And will Mr. Griffiths say how discipline is maintained in the English Universities? Cambridge boys are not like the meek and docile Bengali boys, over whom the Calcutta University hold sway: they are the most haughty and insolent in the world. Everyone acquainted with the history of England knows how the residents of Cambridge town were in former days oppressed by those boys. Under Principals like Sutcliffe and Woodrow, the boys of the Presidency College were treated by their Professors as their children. The writer knows some old men who still speak of the days when they sat at the feet of the late David Hare. The late Babu Peary Charan Sircar used to weep whenever he talked of that great man. But those days are gone. There is no acquaintance now-a-days between the European Professor and their native pupils. However, the writer all along knew Mr. Griffiths to be a quiet sort of man, and it is probable that for some unaccountable reason he lost his temper with the boy. But as matters stand, he is more to blame than the boy. And what was it that Sir Alfred Croft did? He wanted to humble the syndicate, and injure the University in order to vindicate Mr. Griffiths. He wanted to create ill-feeling between natives and Europeans. He was a very good man when he was a Professor in the Presidency College, but now that he has become a great man his nature is completely changed and his head is turned. He seems to consider those members of the Syndicate who are inferior to him in ability as unfit to be looked upon as human beings, and he accordingly wants to have his own way in the deliberations of that body. As a result he has frequent differences with it. It is natural that a bachelor that Sir Alfred has been all his life, he should possess but few of those tender feelings which are fostered in the family, and that he should be self-opinionated. But a little more softness and frankness in his dealings with other men would make him popular. The Syndicate is certainly to blame for passing a vote of censure upon Mr. Griffiths without making a proper enquiry into the charge brought against him, but the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News* have said the most uncharitable things about it. According to those two papers the Bengalis are not yet fit to be appointed members of the Syndicate. But why? Did not Dr. Guru Das Banerji give satisfaction, even to Europeans, in his capacity as Vice-Chancellor? Are Dr. Mohendra Lal Sircar, Dr. Asutosh Mukharji, Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose, and Babu Kali Charan Banerji men not competent to sit in the Syndicate? Are

men like them so very common, even among Englishmen? The Vice-Chancellorship has not been given to Dr. Mohendra Lal. If it had been, people would have seen what a convocation speech ought to be. Sir Alfred Croft's last convocation speech betrayed a sad ignorance of human character, for he extolled the late Raja Sivaprasad to the skies, although that magnate was never held in high esteem by his countrymen. Then, how many European Professors are there in Calcutta so able and learned as Dr. Asutosh? Mr. Bose is a graduate of an English University, and Kali Charan has few equals among Europeans. The editors of those two papers are, therefore, requested to relinquish race animosity. It is nothing but perversity in them to talk of excluding from the Syndicate native members who devote their valuable time to the work of the University, and of filling it only with Europeans.

That the quarrel, however, has been fortunately brought to an end is due solely to the intervention of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Sir Alexander is a truly noble man. To destroy a thing is not at all difficult. And he is a truly great man who constructs or conserves. It is certain that without Sir Alexander's interference the matter would not have been amicably settled, for none but Sir Alexander could have allayed the unjust anger of Sir Alfred Croft. The present Lieutenant-Governor has, indeed, godly qualities in him, and is a true well-wisher of Bengal.

9. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th March has the following:—

The Griffiths affair.

We have no faith either in the Syndicate or in

**DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,**

Mar. 5th, 1896.

the Registrar, either in the Senate or in the Vice-Chancellor. We know that they are all birds of the same feather. But as you raise the question of justice and injustice, we are compelled so say a few words on the subject from the point of view of justice and justice alone. The Registrar's behaviour towards Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose's son was unpardonable. Here is a boy of seventeen and there a man of fifty, with his blood presumably cooled down—a man who is the Principal of a College, the head of two schools and the Registrar of a University. For such a man to lose temper is offence unpardonable. He should not be allowed to remain the Principal of a College or the Registrar of a University. Mr. Griffiths is the chief officer of the Calcutta University: he is not a police inspector.

Mr. Bose's letter or his son's conduct does not, for the present, form the subject of our consideration. We have no concern with the evidence for or against Mr. Griffiths. It is absolutely of no importance to us which of the two parties is telling the truth. Let the lawyer members of the Senate look to that. We repeat what we have said over and over again, the scandal would not have arisen, the question would not have at all assumed a serious aspect, if Mr. Griffiths had treated the boy with a little more forbearance and kindness, if he had been then guided by a spirit of conciliation as he appears to be now. But he did not do so; nor did his chief, Sir Alfred Croft, who espoused his cause and tried his best to humble the Syndicate. There is no questioning the fact that Mr. Griffiths lost his temper in his conduct towards Mr. Bose's son, and there is also no questioning the fact that the Vice-Chancellor took the Registrar under his protecting wings. This being the case, there is also no questioning the clear conclusion that both the Registrar and the Vice-Chancellor have, by their conduct, proved themselves unworthy of the high positions they respectively hold.

But the question has after all been amicably settled at the last meeting of the Syndicate. At that meeting Sir Alfred Croft assumed a conciliatory tone and Mr. Griffiths kept his temper cool. The native members of the Syndicate came to realise their position—they did not fail to discover that in a quarrel between natives and Europeans, the former are sure to go to the wall. In point of fact, there can be no equality between natives and Europeans—no, not even in the University. There can indeed be amicable relations between the two classes so long as natives allow Europeans to lord it over them and are prepared to meekly obey their European masters. But nothing can be more hollow than the contention that in the University at least there is complete equality between natives and Europeans, and that the distinction of creed or colour, rank or position, is absolutely of no consideration there. This fond

and foolish illusion will now be dispelled. There can be no more equality between Europeans and natives than there can be between gods and men.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 6th March has the following:—

The Griffiths affair.

We have no wish to disturb the happy dream of those friends of Mr. Griffiths who flatter themselves that the censure which was passed on him was withdrawn by the Syndicate at its meeting of the 29th February last. We will only show that not a bit of the censure which was very properly passed on the Registrar has been withdrawn, and that the censure that had been passed in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor has been, on the contrary, confirmed in his presence. Let no one think, therefore, that the guilty has gone unpunished.

Under the rules of the University, a decision of the Syndicate cannot be reconsidered by the Senate. It was probably because the Registrar saw that, under these circumstances, no effect could be produced by Sir Alfred Croft's letter, that he prayed the Syndicate to reconsider the question of the censure that had been passed on him. The Registrar represented that he could not understand that the matter was so serious; that if he had understood this, he would not have acted as he had done, and that it was not proper to censure him for what he had done in ignorance. The representation was at first made through Sir Alfred Croft. The Syndicate, therefore, declined to accept it. The Registrar had, therefore, to make the representation himself. Sir Alfred Croft, too, either seeing his own mistake, or at the instance of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, or from a fear of incurring the censure of the Syndicate, publicly withdrew his furious letter. Even those who were ruffled by Sir Alfred Croft's furious attitude at the meeting of the 15th February, were charmed with his affable bearing and gentle words on the 29th. But the Syndicate could not discover any way of complying with Sir Alfred's request, except expunging from the proceedings the censure that had been passed on the Registrar.

One could say that the censure was withdrawn if the Syndicate had accepted the Registrar's report or ordered a fresh enquiry, or entrusted the Registrar with the enquiry, or given him a place on the Committee of Enquiry. Everything that the Syndicate had done in dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Registrar remains unaltered. The vote of censure was only formally withdrawn. Only he who can think that an assault upon a boy by four *chaprasis* is no serious matter can think himself exculpated under such circumstances.

It is said that Mr. Griffiths will retire after a month. Such being the case, we should not have been sorry if the Syndicate had completely exculpated him. He has been sufficiently punished already, and it is probably only for giving a lesson to future Registrars that the Syndicate has not been able to grant him full pardon. Let the reader now see if the Registrar has been exculpated:—

- (1) The Registrar's report was rejected in the Vice-Chancellor's absence. It has not been since accepted.
- (2) An enquiry was ordered because the registrar's report was thought untrustworthy. The order for enquiry has not been withdrawn.
- (3) The Registrar had no place on the Committee of Enquiry. Nor has he been allowed a seat on it since. On the contrary, two of the members of the Committee having now resigned, the enquiry is to be prosecuted by the remaining members alone.

It is thus that the matter stands. If the *Daily News* flatters itself, under these circumstances, that the censure on the Registrar has been withdrawn, and his conduct has been commended, it is welcome to do so. It should know, however, that we are glad, rather than otherwise, to see such victory gained by its Registrar.

SAMAY,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

11. The *Samay* of the 6th March is glad to see the quarrel between the

The Griffiths affair.

Syndicate and the Registrar of the Calcutta University amicably settled. It appears, however, that

the quarrel has been made up through the interference of higher authorities. Upon the merits of the case, the conduct of Mr. Griffiths cannot but be regarded as blameworthy. But what strikes the writer as most strange is the conduct

of the Syndicate which withdrew the vote of censure on Mr. Griffiths as unanimously as it had passed it. In fact, the Syndics may be said to have confessed to the commission of an error which they took the earliest opportunity to mend. It is said that this amicable settlement of the University quarrel is due to the interference of the Lieutenant-Governor. All is well that ends well. If the question of the vote of censure had been brought up for discussion at a meeting of the Senate, the matter would have assumed a serious aspect.

12. Referring to Mr. Buckland's reply to Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose's interpellation concerning the Education Commission's recommendation for the foundation of "graduate scholarships" by the Government, the *Sanjivani* of the 7th March remarks that the scholarships tenable by the students of the Presidency College, who have meritoriously passed the B. A. examination, are not sufficient for the purpose. There are other colleges in the country besides the Presidency College, and there are many meritorious students who cannot prosecute their studies for the M. A. examination simply for want of means.

13. The same paper has the following :—

The Griffiths affair. During the time when the last Entrance examination was being held, a boy entered the Senate Hall on some important business. Insulted and ill-treated by the University peons, he lodged a complaint against them with the Registrar, but his complaint was not heard, and he was unceremoniously shoved out of the hall. The boy's father complained to the Registrar, and he was told that the peons deserved praise rather than blame. The matter was brought to the notice of the Syndicate, and that body censured Mr. Griffiths, rejected his report on the conduct of the peons, and appointed an independent committee to inquire into and report on the charges preferred against them. The Syndicate consisted mostly of Bengali members, and the vote of censure passed by them on a European naturally offended Mr. Griffiths and his chief, Sir Alfred Croft. Sir Alfred Croft accordingly called a meeting of the Senate with a view to humble the Syndicate by getting its vote of censure rescinded at that meeting. Sir Alfred Croft also submitted to the members of the Senate a statement setting forth the case, without, however, getting that statement previously passed by the syndicate. This breach of a University rule made the Vice-Chancellor liable to censure and some of the members of the Syndicate actually submitted a proposal at a meeting of that body, condemning the unparliamentary procedure adopted by Sir Alfred Croft. This gave the astute Vice-Chancellor cause for apprehension. In the meantime, our just and peaceful Lieutenant-Governor called Mr. Griffiths and his chief to his presence, administered them a sound rebuke, and advised them to apologise to the Syndicate. His Honour also advised the members of the Syndicate to pardon the erring Registrar and the Vice-Chancellor. Sir Alfred Croft was thus made to eat humble pie, and at the last meeting of the Syndicate he assumed a penitent tone and humbly asked the members to pardon Mr. Griffiths for his indiscretion. Some of the members of the Syndicate, insisting that the Registrar should personally apologise to the Syndicate, Mr. Griffiths was called and he apologised to the members, explaining that he had not realised the importance of the matter, and had acted all along in good faith. Upon this, the Syndicate pardoned Mr. Griffiths, and directed that both the vote of censure, and the resolution withdrawing that vote, in consideration of the apology made by the Registrar, should be recorded in the report of proceedings. The meeting, however, did not consider the Registrar's inquiry into the conduct of the peons satisfactory, and asked the committee, previously appointed, to push on the inquiry. The Syndicate's decision in the matter may, therefore, be thus summed up :—"Mr. Griffiths, as you apologise to us for the offence you have committed, we withdraw the vote of censure we passed on you. But we have no faith in the report you have submitted on the conduct of the offending peons. We appoint two members of the Syndicate to inquire into their conduct, as we do not think you to be the proper person to be entrusted with this task." Sir Alfred Croft has thus barely saved his honour and reputation. The Lieutenant-Governor is entitled to the best thanks of the public for his efforts to bring about a reconciliation between the native and European members of the Senate.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

SANJIVANI.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 10th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

14. The *Bangavasi* of the 7th March is glad to see the difference between the Syndicate and the Registrar amicably settled. The Griffiths affair.

The Syndicate have withdrawn the vote of censure passed on Mr. Griffiths, remarking that what they had subsequently come to know about the matter led them to withdraw the vote of censure. The learned Syndics could not have given better proof of their childishness. They plainly tell the public that their vote of censure was based on insufficient data. There is sincerity in this confession of error, but is it not also a proof of the foolishness of the learned Syndics?

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 10th March is glad to see the quarrel between Mr. Griffiths and the Syndicate of the Calcutta University amicably settled.

The matter would not have at all assumed a serious aspect if the Syndicate had to deal with Mr. Griffiths alone, and if Sir Alfred Croft had not tried to exercise his power and humble the Bengali members of the Syndicate. It is said that Sir Alfred Croft has been rebuked by the Lieutenant-Governor, and that it is owing to His Honour's intervention, that the quarrel has been quietly settled. During Sir Alexander Mackenzie's rule no official will be allowed to trifle with the Bengalis.

16. The same paper has the following on the last meeting of the Art Faculty:—

The last meeting of the Art Faculty.

The European members of the Senate have resolved to drive the Bengalis out of the Syndicate.

A few native members also have joined them out of spite for the native members of the Syndicate, against whom some of them seem to have a private grudge. It is owing to the votes of these native Fellows, these Bibhisans, these traitors to their own brethren, that at the last meeting of the Art Faculty, Dr. Ashutosh Mukharji, Babu Kali Charan Banerji and Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose were unseated, and in their place Nawab Amir Hossein, Mr. Risley and Professor Gilliland were elected. The *Englishman* should not therefore give the Europeans members alone the whole credit for the victory they won. Dr. Sarcar was elected on the strength of a majority of two votes. The *Englishman* advises Dr. Sarcar to retire, and we shall be glad to see him take the hint. He will find himself out of his element among his European colleagues. The native members of the Senate who joined the Europeans think that they have done well in ridding the Syndicate of Bengali members. They would like to see the European element of the Syndicate strengthened. They will have that desire fulfilled. They will, however, have to repent of their error when the Europeans will lord it over the Syndicate, and they will become helpless tools in their hands. It is reported that at the meeting under notice, Sir James Westland, referring to the system of voting by ballot in force in the Calcutta University, observed that it might give the members an opportunity to have recourse to unfair practices. This offended Mr. Justice Banerji, and he threatened to withdraw from the meeting if the Finance Member's remarks were not withdrawn. But there the matter ended, and a lawyer member pretended to be satisfied with Sir James Westland's explanation, although he did not think it to be quite satisfactory. The *Englishman* is ridiculing the Babus for their ignorance of the English language. It may be that the conduct of those Bengali members who deserted their own camp to join the camp of the European members, naturally led Sir James Westland to question their honesty. Traitors are never believed. The conduct of these members—their narrow-mindedness, their want of foresight—has really pained us. We do not find fault with the European members. It is only natural that they should try to increase their power and prestige in the Senate.

17. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th March hopes that the *Hitavadi* newspaper will publish the names of those treacherous

The Syndicate elections. Bengali members of the Senate who voted for Europeans at the late election of members for the Syndicate. The writer has learnt from an authentic source that the Europeans went out securing votes beforehand. Such a course of things in a University is not certainly to be approved. Have not the Europeans themselves established the Higher Training Society for the moral training of school-boys, and are not they anxious to improve the morality of the whole Bengali community?

18. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 12th March says that in revenge for the Griffiths affair, Sir Alfred Croft has excluded Babus The Syndicate elections. Kali Charan Banerji and Asutosh Mukharji and

SULABH DAIRY,
Mar. 12th, 1896.

Mr. A. M. Bose from the Syndicate. The gentlemen who have been appointed in their stead are all men of ability, but it is doubtful whether they will be able to devote their time to the work of the University. Sir Alfred is an old man. He should seek peace and tranquillity and not the gratification of evil passions like revenge.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

19. Complaints about scarcity of water are pouring in from all directions, says the *Sahuchar* of the 4th March, and it is

SAHCHAR,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

The 24-Parganas District Board in the prevailing water scarcity. therefore gratifying to hear that the 24-Parganas District Board has proposed to sink fifty wells in different places within its jurisdiction. This example should be followed by the District Boards of Nadia, Jessore and Murshidabad.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

20. Correspondents from several parts of Bengal write in the *Bangavasi* of the 7th March complaining of scarcity of water. There is great scarcity of water in Jayjan, a village in the Murshidabad district. The mouth of the Kharia in Hatisala, in Hridaypur, in the Nadia district, has become obstructed, and its water is contaminated. The Gurguria river in Muragacha, Nadia, has become covered with rank vegetation, which, rotting in the water, has made it quite obnoxious. Scarcity of water is very great in Bahara, a village in Kalna, in the Burdwan district. There is only one tank in the village to supply its inhabitants with water. There is very great want of water in Chandpur near Daspur in the Midnapore district. A fire broke out in the village, but it could not be put out simply for want of water. The little water that is available is foul and poisonous. The only river in Bholapara in Naldanga in Jessore has become stagnant. There are no large tanks in the village, and great therefore is the scarcity of water.

21. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th March writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI
Mar. 7th, 1896.

Local Self-Government in Bengal. We understand that in many places the Magistrates have recommended men of their own choice to the Government for nomination as members of District Boards, on the ground that election could not take place for want of an adequate number of voters. It appears that the Magistrates are trying their best to make the Government understand that the people do not evidently appreciate the benefits of Local Self-Government, and Local Self-Government has consequently proved a failure. We believe, on the contrary, that the failure of District Board elections is due to the indifference, and sometimes to the opposition, of the district authorities themselves. Lately in Bagerhat and Mollarhat, in the Khulna district, no election could take place on account of there not having come to the polling-station the required number of voters. A Khulna correspondent gives the following reasons for the failure of elections in these two places:—

- (1) The list of voters is not complete and up to date. This list has not been revised since it was first made some eight or nine years ago.
- (2) The list was not complete when it was first made. The people of this district are comparatively well off, and no less than seventy-five per cent. of them are entitled to be voters. But not even a tenth part of the inhabitants were registered as such. In Das Ani, Karhapara and Basa Barhi, three villages in the Bagerhat sub-division, as many as six or seven hundred people could be registered as voters, but not more than six or seven were registered as such.
- (3) In the Bagerhat subdivision no less than twenty-thousand voters can be registered, but only 1,920 names are on the list. About thirty per cent. of these voters have died since the list was made, but no new voters have been registered in their place. It is said that the Magistrate has ordered that no new

voters should be registered, and no one has therefore applied to have his name registered.

(4) In Bagerhat and Mollarhat, the voters were not informed of the date when the election was to take place. The police, which was entrusted with this task, failed to do its duty. In fact most of the voters of Bagerhat did not know that the election was to take place on the 20th February last.

(5) The civil court and the registry office were not closed on the day of election.

The people are trying to have a fresh election held, and a meeting will be called with this view in Mulghar in the Khulna district.

22. The *Hitaishi* of the 10th March complains that there is a great scarcity of water prevailing in Bengal. Most of the

Water scarcity in Bengal. people in Bengal do not live on the banks of rivers, and tanks and wells, their only source of water, have all dried up, and they have to walk two or three miles every day for water. So great indeed is the scarcity of water that people have sometimes to borrow water from their neighbours and pay it back, and never was this scarcity so keenly felt as it is this year. The suffering of the people is very great in the Nadia, Jessore and 24-Parganas districts. This scarcity of water is telling fearfully on the people. Cholera has broken out in many districts and is decimating their population. In a small village in the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district, so many as fifty people died of cholera in three or four days. In some villages in the Jessore district cholera of a virulent type has broken out. A medical practitioner has been sent there. But will the duty of the Government end there? The Government is always in the habit of telling the public that cholera and malaria are due to want of pure water. But why does it not make any attempt whatever to remove this crying want? People pay the road cess, the public works cess and cesses without number. Millions are spent on frontier fortifications, but why is not even a farthing spent in removing the prevailing water scarcity in the country?

What are the zamindars doing. Will they go on bedecking their wives with jewels with the money sucked out of the poor at a time when the latter are dying for want of water? The Government, if it cannot itself provide the people with water, should at least compel the zamindars to do so.

23. The Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th March, have been said to be greater experts in the art of talking and writing than in doing business. Write a letter to the

Municipal Office, it will take you months to get a reply. Submit a plan for house construction, and if you are not a rich and influential citizen, months will pass away before you get it sanctioned. Then look at the condition of the streets in the native quarters. In the summer they are full of dust and sweepings, and during the rains full of mud and filth. Nimtolla Street has been in a particularly bad condition in this respect for a long time. Are the Commissioners of that ward sleeping? And is this the way they keep to their election assurance to rate-payers?

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

24. The *Hitavadi* of the 6th March says that Government's hard rules about the lease of waste lands in the Sundarbans are responsible for the greater part of that vast area, consisting of 7,532—55 square miles, still remaining uncultivated. Not more than a seventh of that area has yet been brought under the plough. In the first place, a man who wishes to have a lease of waste lands in the Sundarbans must specify the lot which he wishes to have and apply to the Commissioner for its lease. The cost of the Commissioner's inspection of such lot must accompany the application. If the Commissioner, upon personal inspection, thinks it proper to lease the land, he publishes a notification in the *Gazette* specifying the date on which the lot will be leased to the highest bidder. If the applicant is outbid, he does not get the land and loses the cost of inspection in the bargain. If he is so fortunate as to have it,

Lease of lands in the Sundarbans.

he has to clear jungle, raise high embankments for the protection of the land from floods, and excavate sweet water tanks. All these are very expensive works, for the clearing of jungle does not pay its own expenses, as there are no valuable timbers in the Sundarbans, and the place being a saline tract, the lessee has often to dig tank after tank before he finds sweet water. The embankments have to be constantly repaired, for the smallest breach in it causes great mischief. All these done, the lessee has to get cultivators to settle on the land. To do so he must submit to their hard terms. The first four or five years are taken up with these works. After this the lessee begins to get a little money in the shape of rent. But after the first ten years, during which no rent is charged, Government begins to charge rent for the whole land, no matter whether every part of it has been brought under cultivation or not. The charge is gradually raised from 2 annas a bigha till, after the lapse of forty years, the lessee must either give up the land or agree to give Government 67 per cent. of the gross rental. But who will undertake all this trouble and expense in the hope of obtaining only 33 per cent. of the gross rental? The result is that people are not so willing to take leases of land in the Sundarbans as before.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

25. The *Sahachar* of the 4th March says that trains on the southern section

Mismanagement of the southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway have come to be so unpunctual, and have been causing such inconvenience to third class passengers in respect

of accommodation, that people who regularly travel on that line, and their number is not small, have proposed to submit a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor, if the railway authorities do not see fit to mend matters themselves.

26. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 6th March says that on the

A railway complaint. 16th February last he arrived at the Sealdah station at 7-30 P.M., to travel by the Goalundo mail.

He had read that tickets could now be purchased at any time between 5 A.M. to 0-30 A.M. But he found the crowd quite as great as before in front of the ticket-room and learnt that tickets would not be issued before 9 P.M. The correspondent kept calling out to the ticket-seller for the space of half an hour, but to no purpose. After that time the only reply which that officer condescended to give him was:—"I am now going to smoke and will return presently." Another half an hour passed away, still no sign of the ticket-seller. At last the correspondent obtained a ticket, after waiting in the crowd for an hour and a half.

The correspondent also complains that the man who checked his ticket on the steamer that plies every day between Goalundo and Chandpur did not inform him that, unlike the Cachar line steamer, that steamer stops at every station to take and deliver mails and does not reach Chandpur till 10 P.M.

27. A correspondent of the *Banijya Darpan* of the 6th March makes Complaints against the Eastern Bengal State Railway. the following complaints against the management of the Eastern Bengal State Railway:—

- (1) The railway peons charge excessive fees. A peon charged the correspondent two annas for carrying a luggage from the waiting room to the train.
- (2) Sometimes in taking delivery of goods, one does not get the full quantity. The correspondent knows of a case in which a person had to suffer a loss of one hundred and thirty-one *maunds* of jute in this way.
- (3) Wrong delivery of goods is sometimes made. About three months ago a delivery of three bales of jute belonging to the correspondent was made to another person in his presence and in spite of his protest. The Traffic Superintendent being written to, answered that the complainant ought not to have allowed the wrong delivery to be made.

28. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 7th March complains that The railway in Midnapore. the railway which is under construction in Midnapore will prejudicially affect the sanitation of that

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

BANIJYA DARPAN,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

district by obstructing its natural drainage. The Midnapore canal has already practically obstructed the drainage of about four or five hundred villages. When the construction of the line will be completed, these villages will be between the canal embankment on the one side and the railway embankment on the other. Their drainage will thus be completely obstructed, and their sanitation will consequently deteriorate. Agricultural operations, too, in these villages will suffer.

Kharagpur near Midnapore will be the chief station of the railway, and the authorities propose to acquire not only the four or five square miles of waste land in Kharagpur, but also about twelve villages on both its sides. The people of these villages have petitioned the Government against this proposal. It is true that they will be paid adequate compensation for their loss, but it is nevertheless true that the difficulty and inconvenience of removing to other places will be great, and the more so as arable land cannot be had easily for love or money. It is not quite clear why the acquisition of such a large area of land should be necessary to the railway authorities. But even if it is really necessary, the Government can acquire the waste land in and about Kharagpur, which will serve its purpose quite as well.

SOM PRAKASH,
Mar. 9th, 1896.

The proposed Singhia-Madaripur railway line.

29. The *Som Prakash* of the 9th March says that the construction of a railway line from Singhia, on the Central Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, to Madaripur will not only make Assam more easily accessible

from Calcutta than it is now, but will be immensely advantageous to the trade of East Bengal. In time the line may be extended through Burma to the south of China, and will become a line of commercial as well as strategic importance. The Chamber of Commerce surveyed the country through which the line has been proposed to be taken by the Company which is willing to undertake its construction, and, overlooking all the advantages which would result from it, disapproved of its construction on the following, among other grounds:—

- (1) From the nature of the country it will be impossible to construct a railway line from Singhia to Madaripur.
- (2) Even if a line is constructed at an extravagant cost and with super-human labour, it will not last long, and will afford little, if any, facility to trade.
- (3) The line will not pay. According to Mr. Staple, Agent of the Bengal Central Railway Company, Limited, which is desirous of undertaking the construction of the line, however, a line can be very easily laid, few obstacles being met with on the way. Up to Madaripur, he says, no difficulty need be apprehended. The metre-gauge waggons of the Assam-Bengal Railway can be easily ferried over and goods landed at a jetty constructed for the purpose. This arrangement will enable the railway authorities to work with the greatest despatch. If the Company is permitted to survey the land in the Angaria thana, it will be in a position to state definitely whether the difficulties that are apprehended can be overcome or not. But the Company has not yet been granted this permission by Government. When the opposite party is placed at such disadvantage, the Chamber of Commerce has not been right in trying to influence the Government not to accord sanction to the construction of a line. The survey which was undertaken by some members of the Chamber was made at the most unfavourable season, namely, during the rainy season, when the character of the country could not at all be ascertained. Besides, the party went up direct to Madaripur and came down to Goalundo by river, which was not, the proper route to take.

The alternative route proposed will be longer by 54 miles, and the greater part of it will be over water. It will not, therefore, be so advantageous as the other route.

The Chamber has estimated the cost of construction on a more extravagant scale than the Company, but has given no data upon which its calculation is based. Indeed, it will not redound to the credit of the Chamber to oppose a

scheme which is calculated to confer immense benefit on the people of East Bengal.

30. A correspondent of the same paper, who, according to the editor, has experience in railway matters, writes to say that A proposed station on the Calcutta-Midnapore Railway. the proposed station at Jhorhat, in the Howrah district, on the Calcutta-Midnapore line, in course of construction, will confer little benefit on the people of the Howrah district. Instead of a station at Jhorhat, there should be a station in the northern part of the Mohiari Kundu Babu's Sibpur Road, and another at Ramchandrapur, on the south-western bank of the Saraswati khal.

SOM PRAKASH,
Mar. 9th, 1896.

(h)—General.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 3rd March expresses satisfaction at the appointment of Mr. Buckland to the Commissionership of the Burdwan Division. Mr. Buckland's

Mr. Buckland as Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

father was once Commissioner of Burdwan, and discharged his duties with great ability. It is to be hoped that Mr. Buckland will prove a worthy son of a worthy father.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 3rd, 1896.

32. The same paper thanks the Lieutenant-Governor for his tour resolution and says that it will do the people good and promote their convenience.

The Lieutenant-Governor's tour resolution.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

33. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 4th March says that Mr. Westmacott gave a proof of his whimsical disposition by inspecting the Murshidabad Collectorate on the 28th February last, which was a Gazetted holiday. As the Commissioner will probably stay in Berhampur for a fortnight, could he not manage to inspect the Collectorate some other day? The poor amla of the mufassal courts get a very small number of holidays in the year, and they should not be deprived of even one holiday by the whim of an officer. Will not Mr. Westmacott's whimsical nature receive a check even under Sir Alexander Mackenzie?

34. The Chittagong Division, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

Assam administration on the lame excuse of reducing the Lieutenant-Governor's burden of work. But if this burden of work must any how be reduced, better cut off from Bengal those portions which do not properly belong to that province. Otherwise you will have to violate geographical, historical and ethnological principles. The *Pioneer* and other Anglo-Indian papers of its class will be glad to see three districts of Bengal transferred to the Assam administration, simply because a large number of Bengalis will in that case be compelled to live in a non-regulation province, and will be deprived of many of the rights and privileges which they have so long been enjoying. In the opinion of the *Pioneer*, the Government cannot ignore its own convenience, simply because some people will, under the proposed change, lose the comparatively small privileges of being tried by the High Court and of sending a representative to the Legislative Council. But these privileges are not so trifling as the *Pioneer* considers them to be. That the people still get justice is due to the High Court, and that interpellations in the Legislative Council bear fruit has been sufficiently proved of late.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 5th, 1896.

35. The *Hitavadi* of the 6th March says that race feeling is being displayed in so pronounced a form in the Port Commissioners' office, and poor Bengali clerks are being so greatly oppressed there that it is necessary to draw the attention of the authorities to the matter. This time the writer will refer to only two individual cases of injustice, reserving more serious disclosures for a future occasion.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

Babu Mati Lal Ghosh, a clerk in that office, receiving a salary of Rs. 150 per mensem and suffering from diabetes, one day wetted a particular spot in the office, unable to contain himself on his way to the office urinal. For this offence he was fined a month's salary by the head of the office, Mr. Apjohn, and the fine was not remitted, even on the production of a medical certificate testifying to his diabetes. The Babu must consider himself fortunate that he was not dismissed for so serious an offence, for the offence, that is, of not being able to overcome his disease.

Another clerk in that office, after serving with credit for 11 years on a pay of Rs. 50, applied to the Vice-Chairman for an increase of salary, and his application was supported by a recommendation from the Harbour Master to the effect that he was a deserving man. The following was the order which the Vice-Chairman passed on the application :—

"Rupees 50 a month is very good pay for a Bengali clerk, and I can hold out no prospect to him of anything better. If he finds it quite inadequate for his wants, he will better get another billet with more pay elsewhere.—24-1-96."

We do not quote this merely as an instance of individual injustice. The remark by the head of a public office that "Rs. 50 a month is very good pay for a Bengali clerk" constitutes a libel on the whole Bengali race.

No pay, however large, is good enough for those who, in their own country, would find it hard to earn their livelihood as a smith, a shoemaker, a carpenter, or a weaver, and who have not there an inch of land which they can call their own, or a roof to shelter them against the sky, and whose family consists of only themselves and their wives. These men must have also an exchange compensation allowance. But Rs. 50 is very good pay for Bengali clerks, however deserving, although they are members of respectable families and have many mouths to feed. There are many men of talent in the ranks of clerks in this country. Both Babus Harish Chandra Mukharji and Kristo Das Pal were once clerks, and under such a master a pay of Rs. 50 would have been thought sufficient to them.

The above remark of the Vice-Chairman is an outcome of race feeling. The Port Commissioners ought to enquire whether the man who can, without the least occasion or provocation, give expression to such race feeling, has not over-looked the claims of deserving Bengalis in favour of Englishmen. If the authorities cannot find out these things for themselves, we shall feel compelled to point them out to them.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

36. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th March observes that the answers given to the interpellations made at the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council give a fair indication of the policy of the new Lieutenant-Governor.

It is quite clear that Sir Alexander Mackenzie wishes more to increase the welfare of the people than to increase the prestige of the officials. Erring officials, high and low, have been censured. Carey and Fisher, Baker and Forbes, Cooke and Westmacott, none have been spared. The assurance that no erring official will go unpunished during the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie will bind the people to their ruler with the bond of gratitude and respect.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

37. Referring to the proposal to remove the Hooghly Civil and Criminal courts to the Chinsura barracks, the *Bangavasi* of the 7th March observes that the Government should take into its consideration the objection made by the Hooghly public to the proposed removal. The Government has of course very good grounds on its side in favour of removal; it is nevertheless to be hoped that it will not inconvenience the public for the sake of its own convenience.

CHINSURA VARTA-
VAHA,
Mar. 8th, 1896.

38. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 8th March asks the Lieutenant-Governor to take all facts into his consideration before he comes to a decision in connection with the proposed removal to Chinsura of the law courts and

Government offices in Hooghly. Those who object to the proposal urge with some reason, that the removal of the courts and offices will deprive Hooghly of its importance. Hooghly was a prosperous town during the time of the Portuguese; its prosperity has declined of late, but still the law courts and offices draw every day a large number of people to the place, and the town will be virtually denuded of men and visitors if these courts and offices are removed to Chinsura. But against this argument is to be weighed the following:—The buildings in which the courts and offices are held in Hooghly are dark, damp and highly incommodious. The rooms are narrow and unventilated and their roofs are leaky. It will be of great convenience to the public if these courts and offices are removed to Chinsura. The pleaders and their clients will in no way be inconvenienced by the removal. The Chinsura barracks are a large building, and all the courts and offices can be located there. The Commissioner's

office may be placed in the "Officers' barracks" in front of the Hooghly College building. The police office should be removed from the "Hospital barracks," where the Hindu Hostel and the Normal School should be located. The offices of the Superintending Engineer and the Inspector, which are at present located in the Chinsura barracks, should be removed to the building in Hooghly, where the courts and offices are at present located. The proposal of removing the Hooghly College to Hooghly should not, however, be entertained.

In short, the removal of the courts and offices from Hooghly to Chinsura will be of great convenience to all the parties concerned. The argument that the removal will increase the number of criminal cases in Chinsura has no strong ground to stand upon. And none but a few senior pleaders of Hooghly, who have built houses in that place, will make any objection to the proposed removal. The following memorial of the Chinsura people is soon going to be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, supporting the proposed removal:—

To

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, K.C.S.I., LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, BENGAL.

The humble memorial of the undersigned members of the Hooghly Bar and the residents of the Hooghly and Chinsura Municipality.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

1. That your Memorialists have heard with very great pleasure the news of the proposed removal of the Civil and Criminal Courts from Hooghly to Chinsura, as well as of the Divisional Commissioner's office from Burdwan to the same place.

2. That your Memorialists are fully alive to the manifold advantages that will arise from the proposed removal of the said Courts and the Commissioner's office.

3. That, believing as they do that Chinsura is a healthier place than Hooghly, your Memorialists are humbly of opinion that the removal of the Courts to Chinsura will be a great boon to the public.

4. Your Memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that your Honour will be graciously pleased to sanction the removal of the Courts from Hooghly to Chinsura and of the Divisional Commissioner's office from Burdwan to the same place.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

HOOGHLY,

The 4th March 1896.

39. The *Hitaishi* of the 10th March understands that the Government contemplates abolishing the system of competitive examinations for admission to the Subordinate Executive Service. Educated and trained young men of high families have no chance in competitive examinations. It is also true that the competitive examination system is giving the country hot-headed and ill-bred Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates, and is also responsible in a large measure for the miscarriage of justice. But in these days of a hard struggle for existence, it will not be quite advisable to abolish competitive examinations altogether. The Government should follow a middle course, and reserve fewer posts for those who pass competitive examinations.

HITAISHI,
Mar. 10th, 1896.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

40. The *Sahachar* of the 4th March earnestly requests Sir Alexander

The copyright law.

Miller to amend the existing copyright law, which does not give authors sufficient protection against swindlers who issue spurious editions of their books. The defective character of the law prevents offenders against it from being brought to justice even when their crime is detected.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

DAINIK BHARAT
MITRA,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

SULABH DAINIK.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Mar. 9th, 1896.

HITAISHI,
Mar. 10th, 1896.

41. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 4th March has been gratified to read the answers which were returned to the interpellations in the Bengal Council the other day. Such fairness as characterised the answers was not known under Sir Charles Elliott's régime. This was the first meeting of the Council under Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and it opened out a prospect of serenity which was re-assuring to the people of Bengal.

42. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 4th March cannot approve of the Government's proposal to curtail the travelling allowances of the non-official members of the Viceregal Council. Travelling allowances of the non-official members of the Viceregal Council by five thousand rupees. For, under the elective system, members may be elected, who are not rich enough to defray their travelling expenses and the other expenses incidental to their stay in Calcutta.

43. Referring to the interpellations in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 29th February last, the *Hitavadi* of the 6th March says that it is thankful to the interpellators, and deeply thankful to Sir Alexander Mackenzie for the replies that have been given to them. Under Sir Charles Elliott, such replies would never have been received. There can be no doubt that replies like these increase the prestige of Government, and at the same time please the people. That the acknowledgement of a mistake does not diminish prestige, and that its rectification has rather the effect of increasing it, is a truth which is not known to all officers in this country.

44. After Sir Charles Elliott's hasty legislation, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th March, the people of Bengal have been reassured by Sir Alexander Mackenzie's statement that he will never pass any measure without due deliberation. By his actions the new Lieutenant-Governor has already enabled his subjects to get a foretaste of the peace and tranquillity they are destined to enjoy under his rule.

45. The same paper praises Sir Alexander Miller for his magnanimity in accepting the Select Committee's amendments to the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's legislative forecast. The Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill, and has no objection to make to the passing of the Bill in its altered form. If Sir Andrew Scoble is alive, let him see that a Law Member's prestige and reputation are not diminished but enhanced by listening to popular opinion and protest.

46. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 9th March says that from the replies given to the interpellations at the last sitting of the Bengal Council, it is clear that a change for the better has come over the spirit of the administration. What a difference between these replies and the replies which used to be given under Sir Charles Elliott! There was no suppression of facts, no trickery in statements, no pun upon words, not to say no deception like that which was at times discernible in the replies in Sir Charles Elliott's time. It seemed as if Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Secretary was not Sir Charles Elliott's Secretary. In Sir Charles Elliott's time no one could get a plain and straightforward reply to a question relating to the vagaries of judicial officers. But the replies given at the last meeting of the Council were as plain and straightforward as they could possibly be.

47. The *Hitaishi* of the 10th March observes that the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill, in its present shape, is unobjectionable. Sir Alexander Miller is entitled to the thanks of the public for his showing great respect for their opinion in this matter.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 5th, 1896.

48. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 5th March writes as follows:—
Zalim Singh's deposition. Zalim Singh has been deposed and banished. The State in which he was the absolute sovereign, and where nothing was done except by his orders, has become the sporting

ground of the Political Agent. We knew long ago that such a thing would come to pass. The shedding of royal blood in Manipur, in revenge for the death of Mr. Quinton, and the secret deposition of the Maharajas of Bhurtpur and Cashmere made us see that the future of the Indian princes was gloomy. The only hope for those princes lay in the fact that Lord Elgin was the Viceroy, and it was expected that he would not treat the Native Chiefs as his predecessors had treated them. But that hope has been disappointed, for no other chief was ever punished before in the way Zalim Singh has been. The British Government and the British nation were in alliance with him in virtue of a treaty. Nay, it was only the other day that Lord Elgin bestowed sufficient praise on him and vested him with full powers. But where is Zalim Singh to-day, and where are his powers? Deposed and humbled, he has been banished from his State, though neither he himself nor anybody else in the world knows why this humiliation and punishment have come upon him. Should anybody be blamed if, after this occurrence, he refuses to put implicit faith in treaties concluded by the English? Only a short time ago, in the course of his Hyderabad speech, Lord Elgin assured the Indian princes that he was their friend and well-wisher. Where are his friendship and good wishes now? It is said that the Secretary of State has approved of the Government of India's policy in regard to Jhalwar. We cannot, however, bring ourselves to believe that Lord Hamilton's letter to Mr. Caine, which was published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, contained the assurance that no injustice would be done to the Maharana. Has that promise been cast to the winds? Are the promises of the English, then, no better than bubbles in the water, or are they only like the light which attract insects only to destroy them? The Indian princes now see what their real position under the British Government is. The secrecy and darkness in which the actions of Government, in regard to the Native States, were hitherto kept have been dispensed with, and seem no longer wanted. But India still respects the English public, and has full confidence in them. It is hoped that that great, upright and humane people will not do injustice to the Mabarana.

49. *The Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 6th March observes that the deposition of Zalim Singh's deposition.

of the Raja of Jhalwar in such a disgraceful manner is an act of sheer injustice on the part of

the British Government. Native Chiefs are now-a-days mere puppets in the hands of the Political Agents. The higher authorities greatly dislike to hear a Raja bring complaints against his Political *Avatar*. It is strange that the higher authorities did not ask for an explanation from the Raja of Jhalwar, in order to ascertain how far the Political Agent's charges were correct. The policy of the present Government is a policy of annexation. Under this policy it cannot do fair justice to the Native Chiefs. What has inspired the public mind with fear is that it was the Political Agent who was the Raja's prosecutor and judge at the same time, and that it is the Political Agent who has assumed the reins of government after the Raja's dethronement.

50. At the time of Tikendrajit's trial, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th March, some people in England said, and the

The Jhalwar deposition. present Secretary of State for India was one among them, that no powerful man should be allowed to remain in India. Tikendarjit was accordingly sentenced to be hanged. But what has Government gained by following the same policy in regard to Zalim Singh of Jhalwar? Jhalwar is a petty state, and there was not the remotest chance of its ruler ever being able to do the British Government the least harm.

What was Zalim Singh's offence? The few frivolous charges which were, one after another, brought against him in the *Pioneer* have been fully discussed in the native press, and need not be mentioned again. As a matter of fact, the Maharana's deposition has served only to blacken the name of the Government and to produce dissatisfaction in the minds of the native princes. Can Government assign any reason why in all quarrels between Political Agents and native princes, the former gain the victory and the latter are not only defeated but are completely ruined? It was not very long ago that the Viceroy himself and the former Political Agent praised Zalim Singh in unqualified terms. But a few words from Captain Gordon undid the effect of all that praise, and made the Maharana guilty of the most heinous offence. Could injustice go further? And can anything be more deplorable than that under

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the British Government, which never punishes a criminal without offering him an opportunity for self-defence, a native prince should be deposed unheard?

No heir to the State has yet been appointed, and its government is for the present entirely in the hands of the Political Lord. The heir will certainly be a minor, and the Political Agent will lord it over the affairs of the state during the whole term of his minority. Political Agents would be fools if, under such circumstances, they did not, on some pretext or other, pick quarrels with the rulers of Native States and bring about their deposition. Who can like to remain simple Political Agent, if he has it in his power to be the ruler of a State?

The native princes have always been friendly to the British Government. But Government professes its friendship for them only when it is in need of their help, and forgets its professions of friendship as soon as the need for help passes away. It was hoped that under Lord Elgin, Cashmere would be restored to its Maharaja. His Lordship has several times praised the Native Chiefs. It is, therefore, all the more difficult to explain His Excellency's conduct in deposing the Jhalwar Chief. Lord Elgin is a Liberal, and when the Conservatives came into power, it was said that he would not be able to pull with his new masters. But facts show that he is pulling remarkably well with the Conservative Ministry. Big peers in England are said never to become turn-coats for the sake of money. But what a falling off is here! The proverb "money makes a lame man run" has been fully verified in Lord Elgin's case. Alas! that a descendant of Bruce should become a political apostate for the sake of two lakhs and-a-half a year! The deposition of the Jhalwar Chief has filled the country with alarm and discontent.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

51. Referring to the deposition of Maharana Zalim Singh, the *Bangavasi* of the 7th March observes that God and the British Government alone know whether the action

of the Government in this matter has been right or wrong. It is a pity that the people of this country should indulge in talk without measuring their strength. This is the reason why what they say is discredited by the Government. If this does not awake them to a sense of their real condition, nothing will.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

52. The *Sanjivani* of the 7th March has the following on the deposition of the Maharaja of Jhalwar:—

Deposition of the Maharaja of Jhalwar.

Captain Evans-Gordon is the Political Agent of Jhalwar. He and the Maharaja of Jhalwar, who possesses an independent spirit, did not agree, and he consequently reported against the Jhalwar Chief to the Agent-General in Rajputana, representing him as an oppressive and highhanded ruler. The Agent-General came to Jhalwar with a regiment of soldiers, and it was reported that the Maharaja had attempted to take his life. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*'s representative has, however, proved that this accusation against the Maharaja is baseless. But the Government did not give the Maharaja a fair trial, convicted him on the evidence of the accusing party alone, and has now deposed him on the strength of that evidence, unreliable as it is. In English dominions even the lowest of the low among Her Majesty's subjects cannot be punished without a trial. But here is a Native Chief, a ruler of men, convicted and punished without even the formality of a trial. We do not know if injustice could go further. No less than seven or eight charges were publicly preferred against the Maharaja, but he was not heard in his defence and he has been deposed and will be soon banished from his kingdom. Raja Ram Chandra Deo, oppressed by the Political Agent, committed suicide. Lord Lansdowne deprived the Maharaja of Cashmere of his ruling powers. Lord Elgin deposed the Maharaja of Bhurtpur. But in all these cases no definite charges were publicly preferred against the Chiefs. Malhar Rao Holkar had a trial, but Zalim Singh has had none. Lord Elgin has deposed him on the strength of the evidence of the Political Agent alone, notwithstanding the order of the Secretary of State that no Native Chief should be deposed or deprived of his ruling powers without a sifting and impartial inquiry being made into charges that may be preferred against him. The deposition of a Native Chief or the curtailment of his powers is invariably followed by the promotion of the Political Agent or Resident and the increase of his prestige. It is not easy

for a Political Agent to resist the temptation of getting his power and prestige enhanced, and this is the reason why he is in the habit of picking quarrels with the Native Chief in whose court he is placed and of trying his best to bring about his ruin. But the Government is persistently following a policy of increasing the power and prestige of the Political Agents by bringing the Native Chiefs more and more under their control. The breach between the Native Chiefs and the Political Agents is widening every day. The Native Chiefs are growing discontented, as they find it to their cost that they have to choose one of two alternatives—complete subjection to the Political Agents or loss of their territories.

53. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 8th March has the following on the deposition of the Maharana of Jhalwar:—

Deposition of Zalim Singh.

The Political Agent of Rajputana's version

of the Jhalwar affair differs from its popular version. According to this last version, there is a clique in Jhalwar opposed to the Maharana, and the Jhalwar crisis is due to the intrigues of this clique, supported as it is by the Political Agent of Jhalwar. The Political Agent of Rajputana derived his information from Captain Gordon, and the Foreign Department theirs from the Political Agent of Rajputana. It was again the Foreign Department that shaped and moulded the opinion of the Governor-General's Council, and Lord Elgin, a tool in their hands, finally passed his decision in the matter, on the strength of this garbled and one-sided version of the case. The Government did not think it necessary to take the opposite version into its consideration and ascertain how far it was true. British policy towards the Native States has changed since the time of Lord Northbrook, who was taken to task for appointing a commission to try Malhar Rao Holkar. He was called a weak-minded and cowardly Governor-General. The fact is that, Lord Dalhousie's policy towards the Native States has been renewed. The Maharaja of Cashmere was not tried by a commission. It was not Lord Northbrook's policy but a different policy that was followed in Manipur, in Bhurtpur, in Khetat. The same policy has repeated itself in Jhalwar. Lord Dalhousie depended more upon British bayonets than upon anything else in his dealings with the Native Chiefs. The Sepoy Mutiny led to a change of policy. But the Sepoy Mutiny has now become a thrice told tale. British supremacy is more firmly established in India than before, and the British Government has nothing to fear. It is true that Native States are no longer annexed by the Government, but Native Chiefs are deposed, and British influence is established in their States, leading to the weakening of their power.

Some of our contemporaries assure the public that the Jhalwar question will be raised in Parliament. But such interpellations in Parliament will do more harm than good to the Jhalwar Chief. It will only increase the obstinacy, the *zid* of the Secretary of State, and the Government of India. Interpellations in Parliament have never done, and never will do, good to India. Liberals and Conservatives are all the same to India in this respect. When an interpellation was made in Parliament regarding the deposition of the Maharaja of Bhutpur, a Liberal Secretary of State answered, what the Government of India had done was good, and he approved of its action. No member of the House of Commons had any thing to say against that. If the Jhalwar question is raised in Parliament, a similar answer will be given by the Conservative Secretary of State. Some people say that the Maharana of Jhalwar is a good ruler. The Government should prove that he is oppressive, otherwise the people of India will be discontented. Let them be discontented if they like. The officials do not care two straws for their discontent. They know the real state of affairs in the country. Native protest and opposition have no value in their eye.

The Political Agent of Rajputana called a *darbar* in Jhalwar on the occasion of deposing Zalim Singh. At that *darbar* the Jhalwar sardars were advised to take a lesson from the example of the deposed Maharana. But why this advice, this warning, if it is true that Zalim Singh was an oppressive ruler, and the Jhalwar people were really glad to see him deposed? Is it, then, true that Zalim Singh was not the tyrant that he was represented to be? Is it true that his subjects were attached to him, and that his deposition has given the sardars cause for discontent? Who will solve this mystery?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 8th, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Mar. 8th, 1896.

54. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 8th March has the following :—

Deposition of the Maharana of Jhalwar.

The Maharana of Jhalwar has been deposed for what offence we do not know. If it is true that a Native Chief, having a few hundred soldiers, contemplated the mad project of declaring war against the mighty British Government, he ought to have been treated as a lunatic. If it is necessary to depose such a chief, it will be equally necessary to deport all drunkards and lunatics from the country. We are not, however, sure that the Maharana of Jhalwar really contemplated a rebellion. It is the impression of the public that the Maharana's enemy, Bhawani Singh, and his ambitious Dewan are at the root of Zalim Singh's downfall. The Government ought not to have placed absolute reliance on the report of the Political Agent.

But if Zalim Singh really contemplated a rebellion, the Government ought to have treated his mad project with contempt. He would have heavily paid for his folly, and his self-inflicted punishment would have served as a warning to his brother chiefs. But the British Government attached undue importance to the rumour of a contemplated rebellion by the Jhalwar Chief. This has not certainly increased its prestige, although it has cleared the path which Political Agents must take in order to make money. The Government's action has lowered it in the estimation of the people, and has given a rude shock to their faith in the integrity of British rule, and it is on this faith that the British Empire in India is founded. It has also given the Native Chiefs cause for fear. The number of the Native Chiefs is not small, and their power, though not very great, cannot safely be trifled with. The impression that their very existence depends upon the pleasure of the Political Agents will give a rude shock to their sense of security, and will make them uneasy and suspicious. And this does not bode good to the Government. It is true that there is no unity among the Native Chiefs. It is impossible for them to combine, and none of them will dare rise single-handed against the Government. But the British Government in India has many powerful enemies on all sides. Any of them may conspire with the Native Chiefs and instigate them to make a combined attempt against the British Government. There is also a large lawless element in the country always eager for quarrel and plunder. It is sure to swell the number of the rebels, if rebellion ever takes place. The Native Chiefs should not therefore be given cause for discontent. The Government may not care two straws for such discontent, but the people do. It is they that will have to suffer most for any disturbance in the country.

55. The *Hitaishi* of the 10th March writes as follows :—

HITAISHI,
Mar. 10th, 1896.

Deposition of the Maharana of Jhalwar.

If Zalim Singh was really guilty, why was not he formally tried? The public would have had no cause to complain if the Maharana had been punished after a trial. He prayed Lord Elgin for a fair and impartial trial. Why was not his prayer granted? It seems that Lord Elgin had no hand in the deposition of the Jhalwar Chief. But that cannot be. No Native Chief can be deposed and exiled, except with the consent of the Governor-General. But we ask the Viceroy, is this justice? He is invested with unlimited power, and is it right that he should depose a weak Native Chief without a trial, a Native Chief whom he himself installed on the *guddee*? The charge against Zalim Singh is that he contemplated a rebellion against the British Government. But Zalim Singh is a young man. He has received an English training. Is it possible that he is not aware of the strength and power of the British Government? Is it possible that he contemplated declaring a war against that Government with the help of a few hundred untrained soldiers, badly armed and worse equipped? That it is not possible is well known to the Government. And the charge of rebellion is only a pretext for the deposition of the Maharana. It is also insinuated that the Maharana went to see the Political Agent of Rajputana, armed with a revolver, with the clear object of overawing him. If this is true, if it is true that the Maharana was a tyrant and a rebel, how could the Political Agent write friendly letters to him?

The fact is that there are few good rulers like Zalim Singh among the Native Chiefs. He is not, like the majority of his brother chiefs, addicted to drinking or other vices. He bears an unimpeachable character. And once he did not even hesitate to save the life of his enemy, a late Political Agent of

Jhalwar. Zalim Singh's subjects are attached to him, and even his enemies admire him.

Has it then been quite politic on the part of the Government to depose this chief without a trial? The Maharaja of Cashmere and others like him were deposed without the people being told anything about the matter. But the Maharana of Jhalwar was publicly accused, and he ought to have been publicly tried. Malhar Rao got at least the formality of a trial. The Manipur Chief and his Commander-in-Chief were tried by a court-martial. But Zalim Singh has been deposed without even the formality of a trial.

56. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 12th March asks the following questions:—

The Jhalwar Deposition.

(1) Criminals like Amir Khan (the Wahabi), Abdulla (the murderer of Justice Norman), Shere Ali (the assassin who killed Lord Mayo), and Annada Prosad Ghosh, (the man who the other day murdered five persons in Calcutta) were not convicted without a fair trial. Was Zahim Singh, the Maharana of Jhalwar, guilty of a more heinous offence than they that he was punished without a trial?

(2) The poorest criminal, who cannot afford to engage counsel to defend him, has counsel appointed for him at the cost of Government, in order that he may not be convicted without a fair trial. Why was Government more uncharitable to Zalim Singh than it is to the meanest and poorest criminal?

(3) The Gaekwar of Baroda was tried by a Commission, and was defended by counsel. Why was not a similar privilege granted to Zalim Singh?

(4) Even that Viceroy who went away with the worst name that a Viceroy has ever carried away from India, granted to Tikendrajit of Manipur the privilege of making a written defence. Why then, did Lord Elgin refuse a hearing to the Jhalwar Chief?

(5) If a civil suit is decreed in the plaintiff's favour in the absence of the defendant, the defendant has the right of making a defence at any time before the execution of the decree. Why did Government in Zalim Singh's case alone award an *ex parte* decree, though the defendant was anxious to make a defence?

(6) Is the Political Agent above human passions and temptations that his words must be accepted as gospel truth by Lord Elgin?

(7) Is Government making atonement for its action in banishing Sir Lepel Griffin from India, by putting implicit reliance on its Political Agents?

After having been completely worried under successive Viceroys who came from Canada, the people of India had thought that they would see justice and independence upheld by a Viceroy who had no connection with that dependency, and who would not come under the Anglo-Indian spell. But they have been disappointed. Lord Elgin has deposed Zalim Singh for no fault whatever, and disregardful of the fact that his deposition will further no political object.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

57. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 4th March says that the ceremony of throwing open to the public a new tank in Hari-

harpura, in the Murshidabad district, excavated at the cost of Babu Asutosh Nath, of Kasim Bazar, was performed the other day by Mr. Westmacott, in a right European style, and the tank was named not after any god, or any Brahman or any ancestor of the gentleman who bore the cost of its excavation, as was the custom in past times, but after Mr. Westmacott. This was nothing strange, considering the spirit of the age. But was there no other European in the country after whom the tank could be named? Mr. Westmacott treats the natives of the country very badly, and was it proper for the advisers of the minor to name the tank after him? The writer would have been glad if it had been named after the late Annada Babu.

58. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 5th March says that

A released coolly.

though the Manager of the Rajnagar tea-garden

(R. N. P. for 15th February, paragraph 48) and permitted her to go away, he did not consider it his duty to see her safely sent home or even to pay her the expenses of the return journey. He saw that the agreement would not stand, and released her only from a fear of the law.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 12th, 1896.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 4th, 1896.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1896.

59. The *Hitavadi* of the 6th March learns from the *Bihar Times* that Mr. Reeves, the Manager of the encumbered estate of a minor girl of the Tikari Raj family, having proposed to sell certain villages in Budh Gaya by auction, the Buddhist priest, Mr. Dharmapala, offered to take a *mukarari* lease of the same for a large *salami* and a large rent. Mr. Reeves was about to close with this very advantageous offer, when he received a private notice from the Bengal Government not to sell or lease any land to Buddhists on pain of losing his appointment. Alarmed at this, Mr. Reeves rejected the offer. The Bengal Government did a very wrong thing if it really held out such a threat to Mr. Reeves. It is true that at Gaya the Hindu *Mohants* and Buddhists are not on good terms with each other, and that the sale of any lands to Buddhists may, therefore, lead to a breach of the peace. But the plan proposed by Government is not the best for solving the difficulty. That plan is not only marked by partiality, but involves injury to the interests of the minor owner of the estate. The writer hopes that such a mistake as this, if it has really been committed, will be rectified under Sir Alexander Mackenzie's régime.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

60. The *Tripura Prakash*, observes the *Bangavasi* of the 7th March, eulogises Mr. Carlyle, Magistrate and Collector of Popular Magistrates. Tippera. Only the other day the Murshidabad people gave an ovation to Mr. Kennedy, District Magistrate of Murshidabad, on the eve of his retirement. What have those Englishmen who say that the Bengalis take pleasure in maligning Europeans to say to this? The Bengalis feel grateful even for any kind words that are spoken to them. But there are civilians who have not even kind words to give them.

BANGAVASI.

61. The same paper observes that there are Hindu gentlemen who are in the habit of inviting Europeans to dinners and regaling them with beef and pork. There is no objection to Hindu gentlemen inviting Europeans to their homes, but why should Hindus purchase and bring into their houses forbidden food, when there are so many other things with which European guests may be entertained? Musalman gentlemen, too, invite Europeans, but they never allow forbidden food to enter their homes. Why should not Hindus follow this example?

BANGAVASI.

62. The same paper thanks the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie for preventing the Manager of the Tikari estate from granting an *ijara* of the Muhabodhi *mauza* to Mr. Dharmapala of the Muhabodhi Society. Bengal will no doubt enjoy peace and tranquility if the head of the Government in this way pays close attentions to all state affairs.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

63. Referring to the Government's action in preventing the Manager of the Tikari estate from granting an *ijara* of the Muhabodhi *mauza* to Dharmapala, the *Sanjivani* of the 7th March writes as follows:—

One-third of the population of the world professes the Buddhist religion. China, Japan and Siam are Buddhist countries. Budh Gaya, with its temple, is the most sacred spot on earth in the eye of the Buddhists. But they have no right or title to that spot. Hearing that the Budh-Gaya village was going to be sold by public auction, the Buddhists throughout the world felt elated, and began to raise about a lakh of rupees by subscriptions. Prince Damrung of Siam asked his Agent in Calcutta to ascertain whether the property was really on sale. His Agent answered in the negative, and when the property was actually put up for sale, he said that his previous information was derived from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal. The Government's conduct in this matter is not unobjectionable. The English Government has always maintained a praiseworthy neutrality in religious questions, and we cannot believe that the Government has really made up its mind not to allow the Buddhists to acquire land near the Budh Gaya temple. In fact it gives us pain to see any reflection cast on our just Lieutenant-Governor and his able Chief Secretary, Mr. Cotton. The Government cannot possibly have any objection to the Buddhists taking an *ijara* of the Budh-Gaya *mauza* and

building a temple there. The *Mohant* may of course object, but his objection is not worth any consideration.

64. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 7th March cannot understand why the two Muhammadan Associations presented separate addresses to the new Lieutenant-Governor, when their object in presenting them was one and the same, namely, to welcome His Honour on behalf of the Musalman community, and to introduce that community into His Honour's good graces. The different Muhammadan public bodies in this province should see the necessity of joint action in such cases.

The Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the Muhammadan addresses.

As for the Lieutenant-Governor's reply, His Honour plainly told the Musalmans that their improvement depended solely upon themselves. He disabused those Musalmans who think that, however idle and inert they may themselves remain, they will be pushed up to high posts by their patrons, by telling them that they must look upon "self-help as their best patron," which amounted to saying that without qualifications they will not get posts under Government. Very fair words these. But in saying them His Honour should have considered why the Musalmans should seek his patronage and ask his favour if they had abilities and qualifications of their own to depend upon. In that case, they would demand posts under Government as a matter of right. What the Musalmans now ask for is that Government should lend them a helping hand in qualifying themselves for the service of Government. They are doing their best to make themselves fit for such service, and are in some cases succeeding in their efforts, but still they fail to attract the notice of Government. Is not this to be regretted? The Lieutenant-Governor would no doubt have spoken in a milder tone if the associations, which presented the addresses, had given a statement showing how many competent Musalmans had not, in spite of high qualifications, found self-help their best patron. But eschewing arguments like these, the deputations wanted to secure the Lieutenant-Governor's sympathy for the Musalmans by saying that the Musalmans were Her Majesty's loyal subjects. Now the Musalmans should listen with all their ears open to the reply given by the Lieutenant-Governor to this statement. His Honour said that besides the Musalmans there were other loyal subjects of Her Majesty, and that in giving away appointments, Government should consider only the merits of candidates, taking no note of their nationality. Why then should the Musalmans sacrifice their self-respect and go about begging? Let them try their best to qualify themselves for Government service, and the authorities will have no alternative but to give them employment. Let the Musalmans, therefore, gird up their loins to pass the fiery ordeal, not minding if they perish in the attempt. Their destruction may awake in the minds of the rulers either the feeling with which Nero witnessed the burning of Rome or the feeling with which Nepolean saw thousands of his soldiers lying dead; but it will at least afford the Musalmans an opportunity of showing the Government that they are not worthless men. The standard of qualification for entrance into Government service has been gradually raised, so that the Musalmans, in spite of the progress of education among them, have not up to the present been fully able to reach it. It is only by favour shown them during the last few years that a few among them obtained posts under Government. Under these circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor's reply should fill the Musalmans with anxiety for their future. The Musalmans of Bengal should awake from their sleep. And the Central National Muhammadan Association and the Muhammadan Literary Society should commence a wide agitation over the Lieutenant-Governor's reply. There is no other way of letting the Musalman public know the sentiments expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor. They still know and pride themselves that the Chhota Lat and the Burra Lat are their patrons. But alas! the Burra Lat and the Chota Lat are no longer so; they have other submissive and loyal subjects besides Musalmans. These words were spoken by the Lieutenant-Governor more than a fortnight ago, but the Musalman Associations, which are the spokesmen of the Muhammadan community, have so long uttered not a word regarding them. The *Moslem Chronicle* newspaper, too, has made no observations thereon. But the leaders of a community should remember that it is their duty to inform the public of the conversations which take place between themselves and the rulers.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 7th, 1896.

The Lieutenant-Governor's reply has delighted the Hindus. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is representing His Honour as a pious man, holding the scales of justice in his hand. It is clear that the Musalmans are fallen on very evil times. Officials are now directing against them piercing and painful words. They have little hope of being objects of official favour any longer; and their position is drifting from bad to worse. The only remedy now lies in the leaders of the community combining and devising means for securing the interest of their co-religionists. Danger brings even the lower animals instinctively together. And it is hoped that the gloomy prospect now before the Musalmans will bring them together and lead them to defend their cause with hope of victory in their heart. Justice will surely win in the end.

The above has been written by A. U. Ahmed, and the editor agrees with him.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 9th, 1896.

65. It was thought, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 9th March, that being foiled in his attempt to establish Mr. Dharmapala's latest move. the claim of the Buddhists to the Budh-Gaya temple by a criminal prosecution, Mr. Dharmapala would have recourse to civil proceedings against the *mohant*. But Mr. Dharmapala is a clever man. He did not like to submit himself to the expense and uncertainty of legal proceedings and tried to outwit the *mohant* by a trick. He persuaded Mr. Reeves, Manager of the Tikari estate, to grant him the *ijara* of the *Mahabodhi mauza*. Mr. Dharmapala's object in asking a lease of this *mauza* is clear enough. An *ijara* of the *mauza* once granted, Mr. Dharmapala would become a neighbour of the *mohant*, and would thus have greater opportunities of tormenting and persecuting him. He might even succeed in this way in turning the *mohant* out of the temple and taking possession of it on behalf of the Buddhists. But Mr. Dharmapala has been sadly disappointed. Sir Alexander Mackenzie at once saw through his motive, and prevented an *ijara* of the *Mahabodhi mauza* from passing to his hands. But Mr. Dharmapala is not a man to be disconcerted. With influential Englishmen like Sir Edwin Arnold at his back, he is sure to renew his attempts to dispossess the Hindus of the *Mahabodhi* temple. But the whole Hindu society is on the side of the Government, and every man who has a religion, will be. In this respect Hindus and Musalmans will be at one. For if Mr. Dharmapala can to-day lay his hands on a Hindu temple, he may to-morrow lay his hands on a Musalman mosque. The astute Buddhist is an enemy of Hindus, Christians, and Musalmans alike. He is also an enemy of the Government; for he is likely to create a disturbance in the country by his unlawful conduct, and all who create such disturbance are an enemy of the Government. None but a few un-Hindu Babus will find fault with the Government if it gives Mr. Dharmapala timely warning, and plainly tells him that he will have to leave the country, bag and baggage if he does not give up his tricks.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 14th March 1896.